

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 OES-07 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00
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/102 W

-----110550 161002Z /20

R 160841Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9654

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PASS BELMONT (OIH/HEW); BELL (OS/HEW)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO SWEL XG XS OCON

SUBJECT: ALMA ATA CONFERENCE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE;
REPORT OF MEETING

1. ON MAY 12, HEALTH ATTACHE AT MISSION ATTENDED A MEETING
OF WHA DELEGATIONS FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PLUS
CANADA AND US. THE MEETING WAS HOSTED BY SWISS AND
ITS PURPOSE WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON A) SIZE AND COMPO-
SITION OF DELEGATIONS TO ALMA ATA AND B) WHAT DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES COULD EXPECT TO ACHIEVE OR GAIN FROM CONFERENCE.

2. SOME COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY DECIDED ON THEIR DELEGATION
WHEREAS OTHERS SEEMED PUZZLED ON HOW TO PROCEED. THE
FOLLOWING EMERGED:

- FRANCE: PLANS TO SEND FIVE; ONE FROM OVERSEAS DEVELOP-
MENT, ONE MD FROM SOCIAL SECURITY, ONE FROM MFA (UNICEF)
ONE FROM MFA (WHO) AND DR AUJALEU.

- SWEDEN: PLANS TO SEND 6; ONE FROM RESEARCH COOPERATION
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ONE FROM SIDA, ONE FROM SWEDISH
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NURSES ASSOCIATION, ONE FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MH), ONE
FROM NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND ONE FROM
THE COUNTY COUNCILS.

- UK: PLANS TO SEND 6; DR KILGOUR, ONE NURSE AND ONE
ADMINISTRATOR FROM OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT, ONE PROF.
OF TROPICAL COMMUNITY MEDICINE, ONE DEP. CHIEF MEDICAL

OFFICER AND ONE DEP. CHIEF NURSING OFFICER FROM THE MH.

- NORWAY: PLANS TO SEND 6; THE DEPUTY DG OF HEALTH SERVICES, ONE CHAIRMAN OF ADVISORY BOARD ON HEALTH SERVICES, ONE FROM NORWEGIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND THREE TECHNICAL OFFICERS.

- FRG: UNCERTAIN, BUT DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE EMBASSY AT MOSCOW.

- AUSTRIA: PLANS TO SEND 3; ONE HIGH OFFICIAL FROM MH, ONE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST, ONE MFA OFFICIAL FROM GENEVA (FOR FOLLOWUP).

- SPAIN: WILL SEND THREE; THE VICE-MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE DG OF HEALTH SERVICES (PRIMARY CARE), AND ONE TECHNICAL PERSON.

- PORTUGAL: WILL SEND THREE (NOT YET CHOSEN); ONE PROBABLY THE VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING, ONE HEALTH PLANNING SPECIALIST, ONE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL FROM MH.

- FINLAND: WILL SEND FOUR OR FIVE; SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ONE DEPUTY CHIEF FOR PHC OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH, ONE COMMUNITY PHYSICIAN FROM LOCAL LEVEL, ONE NURSE, AND PERHAPS A MFA OFFICIAL.

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- ITALY: WILL SEND THREE; ONE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL FROM MH, ONE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, ONE PROF. OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

- BELGIUM: WILL SEND SIX; MINISTER OF HEALTH, ONE OFFICIAL OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, ONE OFFICIAL FROM MFA, THREE PROFESSORS FROM THE FIELDS OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION.

- LUXEMBOURG: WILL SEND THREE; MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, ONE OFFICIAL FROM MFA (DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST).

- DENMARK: WILL SEND FIVE; DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND DEP. PERM. SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, DEP. DG OF NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH, TWO MD'S FROM DANIDA.

- CANADA: UNDECIDED, CONSIDERING; DEPUTY MINISTER OR MINISTER OF HEALTH, ONE PHC SPECIALIST, ONE COMMUNITY HEALTH SPECIALIST, ONE FROM CIDA, DG OF MEDICAL SERVICES, TWO PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY OFFICIAL FROM MOSCOW EMBASSY.

- NETHERLANDS: PROBABLY 3; ONE OFFICIAL FROM MH, ONE FROM MFA (WITH SKILLS IN POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL AFFAIRS), ONE OFFICIAL FROM MOSCOW EMBASSY.

- SWITZERLAND: UNDECIDED, CONSIDERING: DG OF PUBLIC HEALTH (FREY), ONE MFA OFFICIAL (POLITICAL) ONE MFA (TECHNICAL COOPERATION) AND POSSIBLY ONE OR MORE CANTONAL PHYSICIANS.

3. DISCUSSION WAS DOMINATED BY DR JOHN KILGOUR OF UK AND PROFESSOR S. HALTER OF BELGIUM. KILGOUR VIEWED ALMA ATA

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R 160841Z MAY 78
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AS "LAST PHASE OF POLITICAL BATTLE SOVIETS LOST THREE YEARS AGO". HE FELT RUSSIANS ORIGINALLY WANTED TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN 1976 BEFORE WHO PHC POLICY WAS MORE OR LESS FIXED. NOW THE CONFERENCE CAN ONLY BE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EXPERIENCES WITH PHC. HALTER AGREED THE SOVIETS WERE MUCH LESS ENTHUSIASTIC NOW ABOUT CONFERENCE. HE STATED THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED IN 1975 THE INTEREST THE WORLD HAS SHOWN IN PHC AND THAT NOW THE FOCUS ON PHC IS SHARPENED. BOTH AGREED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD MUCH TO GAIN FROM CONFERENCE AND THAT THE EURO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER SHOULD FOLLOW UP THE FINDINGS OF THE ALMA ATA CONFERENCE. EUROPE AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE SPENDING FAR TOO MUCH ON TECHNOLOGY AND GAINING FAR TOO LITTLE HEALTH IN RETURN.

4. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOKPSEV AS YET UNPUBLISHED CONFERENCE PAPER, PARTICULARLY AS TO WHETHER ADEQUATE NOTICE WILL BE TAKEN OF THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT WAS A CONSENSUS THAT MAHLER

SHOULD BE ASKED TO CLARIFY HIS VIEW PUBLICLY OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE AND THAT PERHAPS THE PRESENT GROUP SHOULD RECONVENE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. SORENSON

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